



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/854,691	05/12/97	CIPRIANI	G

YOUNG & THOMPSON  
SECOND FLOOR  
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET  
ARLINGTON VA 22202

PM52/0302

EXAMINER
DARLING, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3631	

DATE MAILED: 03/02/98

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**08/854,691**

Applicant(s)  
**Cipriani**

Examiner  
**John P. Darling**

Group Art Unit  
**3631**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 12, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 3631

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, lines 2-3, the phrase "especially designed for the feeding of welding machine" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 1, line 3, the phrase "in particular" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

In claim 1, line 5, "the soldering metal" lacks proper antecedent basis.

In claim 1, lines 7-8, it is unclear what the flexible elements adhere to.

In claim 1, line 8, "if necessary" is unclear.

In claim 2, line 4, there is a second recitation of "jutting flexible elements" and it is unclear if the stirrup shaped jutting flexible elements of claim 2 are the same as the jutting flexible elements of claim 1, lines 6-7.

In claim 3, lines 3-4, it is unclear what constitutes "the profile of the side" (which also lacks proper antecedent basis); lines 4-5, "the thin skeleton" lacks proper antecedent basis (the use of the relative term "thin" is also vague and indefinite); line 6, delete "same".

Art Unit: 3631

The term "thin" in claim 4, line 3, is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "thin" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

In claim 4, line 3, "and flexible" is redundant and should be deleted; line 4, "the tubular trunk" lacks proper antecedent basis.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112 set forth in this Office action.

***Priority***

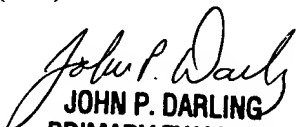
Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Darling whose telephone number is (703) 308-2881.

JPD  
February 24, 1998

  
JOHN P. DARLING  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 3600